United Nations S/2013/278

Security Council

Distr.: General
9 May 2013
English
Original: French

## Letter dated 9 May 2013 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 15 April 2013 from Mr. Alassane Ouattara, President of Côte d'Ivoire (see annex) regarding the assessment mission to Côte d'Ivoire led by Mr. Edmond Mulet, Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, and my special report on the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (S/2013/197).

I should be grateful if you would bring the enclosed letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon

13-32891 (E) 090513 090513

Please recycle

## Annex

[Original: French]

### Letter dated 15 April 2013 from the President of Côte d'Ivoire addressed to the Security Council

As agreed at our meeting in Addis Ababa on 27 January 2013, on the sidelines of the African Union Summit, on 15 February 2013 I received a visit from the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Mr. Edmond Mulet, during his mission to assess the implementation of the mandate of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI).

During that visit we discussed the sociopolitical situation in my country and reviewed the progress made in all areas of national life, while acknowledging the need to pursue, in the context of the UNOCI mandate, the efforts currently under way with respect to the promotion of human rights, national reconciliation and the consolidation of security in the western part of Côte d'Ivoire.

On all these points, I confirmed that the Government is willing and able to keep the reforms on track. I also expressed to Mr. Mulet my determination to continue reaching out to the political opposition and to end this long decade of impunity and intimidation.

Mr. Mulet shared with me the recommendations that the United Nations technical assessment mission intends to submit to you, including a recommendation to reduce the military strength of UNOCI by three battalions by 2015. This recommendation, which I support, reflects the progress made by my country and the return to normal conditions in Côte d'Ivoire.

Nonetheless, in order to consolidate the gains made and to expedite the processes of security sector reform and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, which are essential for sustainable peace and security, it is necessary for the United Nations to increase substantially the amount of resources allocated to Côte d'Ivoire and to provide for more flexible procedures for the implementation of activities.

In the area of security sector reform, the support being requested would be intended essentially for institutional capacity-building. It would consist of support for the training of Ivorian forces, the transfer to those forces of the camps vacated by repatriated Blue Helmets and the sale, at reasonable cost, of United Nations equipment used for the operation of those camps. With respect to disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, I would appreciate additional financial and technical assistance from UNOCI for the disarmament and reintegration of former combatants, of whom there are an estimated 65,000 throughout the national territory.

I should like to express once again my gratitude to UNOCI for its contribution to the restoration of peace in my country. I take this opportunity, as its mandate is being reviewed, to request that the Operation's priorities and transition be implemented in close cooperation with the Government every step of the way. In this connection, it would be desirable to establish a joint mechanism for evaluating the security situation and a corresponding framework which, on the basis of specific benchmarks, would make recommendations on the pace of the drawdown of UNOCI.

The role played by UNOCI alongside the Government remains crucial and merits strengthening to ensure that it has a direct positive impact on the population, especially in rural areas. Accordingly, I stressed to Mr. Mulet that the savings generated by the reduction in the military strength of UNOCI should be used first and foremost to bolster the Operation's support for the Government in implementing projects that are important for peace and stability in the country.

I should be grateful if you would kindly share the contents of this letter with the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Alassane **Ouattara**